

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
22 April 1984

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

The Reagan Administration's failure to disclose CIA involvement in the mining of Nicaraguan harbors may invoke tighter restrictions on the agency, former CIA Director Stansfield Turner said in a newspaper interview published Sunday.

In an interview with the Arizona Republic, Turner noted a "scathing letter" Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., sent to Reagan about the mining.

"The letter is evidence that the administration is guilty of gross neglect in failing to inform Congress of the mining," Turner said from his winter home in Sedona, Ariz. "It has broken the spirit of the law (covering covert activities) in not letting Congress know about this action.

"And I'm worried that this will hurt the CIA, because the agency could wind up with a tighter noose around its neck."

Turner, who headed the CIA during the Carter years, said Congress may impose more stringent oversight procedures over the intelligence-gathering agency and that could limit the CIA's ability to function.

"The U.S. can't get along without the CIA," Turner said. "We're the only country in the world with a single, central organization that does something in all areas of intelligence."